



2001 Wetlands Reserve Program

Program Focus—The Wetland Reserve Program in Tennessee is focused on restoring wetlands within several targeted watersheds including the Mississippi River Delta, Obion and Forked Deer Rivers, Hatchie, Wolf, and Duck Rivers. These large river flood plains have experienced significant historical wetland losses. Maximum wildlife, water quality and public benefits can be achieved from the restoration efforts. Other watersheds within the State receiving special consideration for restoration include the Nolichucky River, Lick Creek, Emory River, Buffalo River, and Conasauga River. These wetland restoration areas can provide significant benefits to rare and declining habitats and wildlife species, since many of the imperiled plant and animal species are aquatically based or wetland dependent.



TENNESSEE Summary

Overview—The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to restore, enhance, and protect wetlands. Landowners have the option of enrolling eligible lands through permanent easements, 30-year easements and restoration cost-share agreements.

NRCS WRP goals in Tennessee are to restore and protect wetlands primarily by restoring bottomland hardwoods and reversing all existing drainage systems within the wetland easement area. Emphasis is on restoring native plant communities and hydrology to pre-cropping conditions and enhancing the area to maximize wildlife values. Landowners compete for limited funds and those with the highest environmental benefits are enrolled.

Accomplishments—In Fiscal Year (FY) 2001, 21 applications have been funded with approximately 1,566 acres of permanent easements and 310 acres of 30-year easements. Approximately 950 acres will be reforested and about 500 acres of existing forestland will be protected. A total of nine easements will consist of extensive hydrologic restoration including the establishment of shallow water areas.

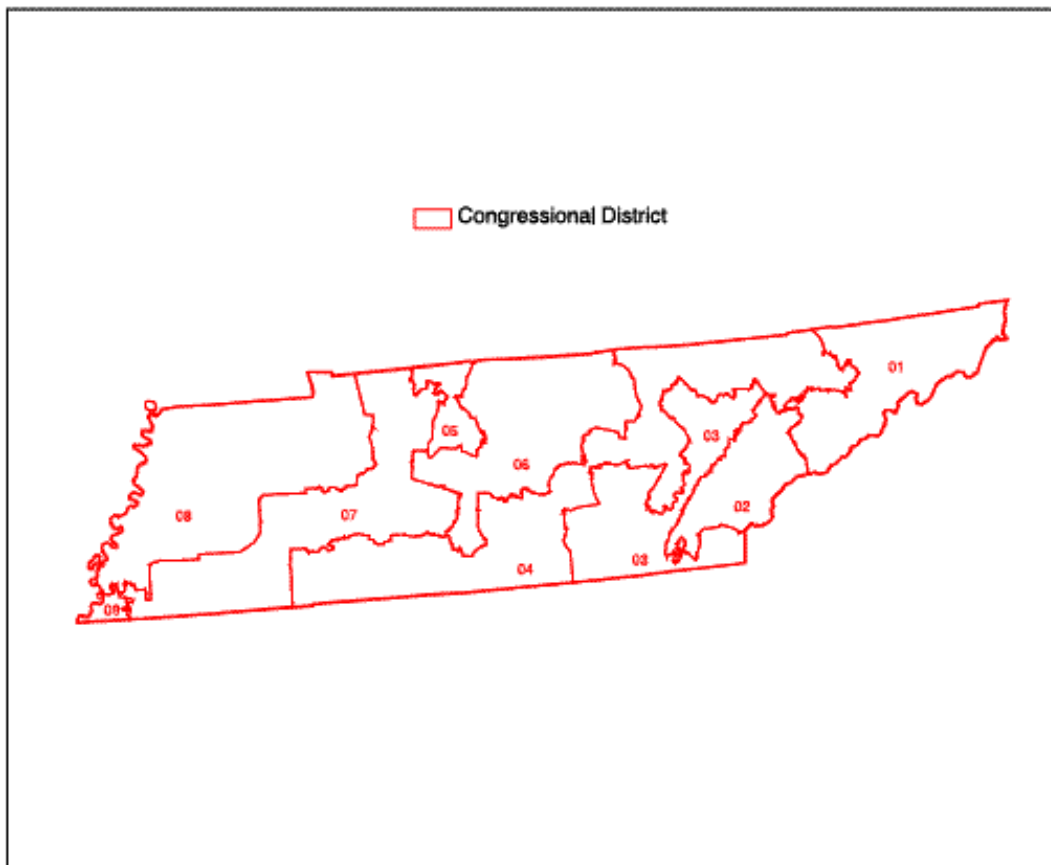
Restoration work completed by NRCS in FY 2001 included the reforestation of 2,056 acres of previously converted wetlands, reforestation of 277 acres of upland buffers, and the creation of 112 acres of shallow water marsh.

Upon completion of FY 2001 easement filings, Tennessee will have a total of 102 easements with slightly over 15,400 acres protected. A total of 75 easements consisting of 13,592 acres have been recorded as of this date. Fifty-three easements are permanent and twenty-two are 30-year easements. Fifty-three easements consisting of 9,465 acres have been fully restored. Over \$9.3 million have been expended for easement acquisition and restoration activities. An anticipated \$12 million will be expended upon purchase and restoration of FY 2001 easements.

Program Benefits—The restoration and long-term protection of approximately 15,400 acres of wetland will provide benefits including flood storage, sediment filtering, nutrient and chemical filtering, groundwater recharge, and wildlife habitat. Native plant communities will maximize benefits for wetland dependent wildlife. Habitat restoration, including riparian and wildlife corridor establishment, will decrease fragmentation of desirable habitat for wildlife.

State contact—Donald L. Dotson, Assistant State Conservationist—Programs
Nashville, TN Tel. (615) 277-2567

Tennessee Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District



TENNESSEE Dollars and Contracts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (95-01)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1			\$72,663	2
District 3			\$20,696	1
District 4	\$243,900	5	\$917,700	13
District 7	\$36,282	2	\$1,480,531	16
District 8	\$1,384,492	14	\$9,508,688	70
District 7				
State Totals	\$1,664,674	21	\$12,000,278	102

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.